

2024 Sheffield CALF – a small conference of wargamers



Tapton Hall

15 March 2024

Introduction

Welcome to the first (but hopefully not last) Sheffield CALF. Why 'CALF?' Because it's essentially a one-day version of the sort of things that go on at Wargame Developments' **Conference Of Wargamers** (COW). Got it?

Tim Gow Conference Organiser and general dogsbody

CALF is brought to you by Tim Gow - with the assistance of the session presenters and of course the lovely staff at Tapton Hall. Attendance is by prior booking only.

Corporate Sponsor

CALF is sponsored and supported by **Tim Gow Wealth Management Limited**: [h](#)

Location Information

There is a location map on the Tapton website: [\[REDACTED\]](#) **Please do not arrive before 0930.** Tapton Hall is an historic building and has been owned by the Sheffield Masonic Hall Company since the 1960s. Freemasonry is it's core activity - it will be possible to arrange a tour of a Lodge Room during the lunch break – please let me know on arrival if this would be of interest.

Parking

Turn into the drive between the two tall gateposts and drive straight on past the building to the large car park. Please do not park in disabled spaces unless you can display the appropriate badge. You may park in front of the main door for a few minutes if unloading/loading.

Arrival and Registration

Please do not arrive before 0930. Floor plans are attached. Please make your way up the main stairs from Reception to the Concourse and thence to the Conference Room (the sign above the door reads 'Lecture Room'). Attendees will there be issued with a name badge – please wear this while you are at CALF.

Dress and Decorum

There is no dress code as such, but don't take that as a challenge. There will be other people and groups in the building so please try not to frighten them too much. Appropriate silly hats will no doubt feature in several sessions but please remove them in the public areas of the building.

Smoking

Smoking is not allowed in any part of the building.

Meals and Refreshments

Please refer to the timetable for the timings of breaks and lunch.

Bar

The bar is at the top of the main stairs – I am confident it will be open on demand!

The Small Print

The notes on sessions, accommodation, facilities and food are for guidance only, and in no way form any part of a contract with the conference organisers, sponsor, or Tapton Hall. If belongings are left unattended in any of the public or conference rooms it is at your own risk.

Session Information

The Information Board and Timetable will be situated in or just outside the Conference Room. I thank all of you who have sent me the full details required to plan the weekend. This programme notes give all the session details that I have received. Please be respectful of other sessions in respect of location and noise levels.

Timetable Diktats

Presenters are requested to provide a booking-in sheet for their session. It is suggested that presenters remove these shortly before the session takes place and ensure that as far as possible all those who have pre-booked and who turn up are given priority.

If you have indicated your interest in a session, please turn up in good time. Presenters cannot be expected to delay a session on the off chance that you roll in late!

It is not out-with the bounds of possibility that some session times and rooms will change – please check the main timetable to avoid disappointment.

Do not interrupt other presenters in the hope of finding recruits for your own session – this is not acceptable behaviour.

The Bring & Buy

The seating round the sides of Lodge Room 3 may be used to lay out items for sale. Goods should be labelled clearly with details of price and vendor. Honesty is relied on to ensure that monies end up in the correct pockets. Please remember to bring plenty of cash!

GOODS ARE LEFT AT THE OWNER'S RISK. TAPTON HALL, THE CORPORATE SPONSOR AND THE CONFERENCE ORGANISERS WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER FOR ANY LOSSES OR DAMAGE SUFFERED.

As we are guests of a Masonic Hall, it is requested that vendors donate at least 10% of their takings to West Riding Masonic Charities (it costs at least as much to unload goods at a wargames show or on a popular internet auction site). The Conference Organiser will, of course, be pleased to accept such donations on behalf of WRMCL.

SESSIONS

Lloyd Powell & Gary Slator

HALBERDS AND HOOLIGANS

Plenary lecture

The second half of the fifteenth century was pivotal in the development of Western European warfare. It saw the traditional, at least in theory, feudal armies replaced. In several states regular bodies of troops, raised by a variety of ordinances, replaced these levies. For the first time since the fall of the Western Roman empire these states now possessed regular armies. In other countries large scale, often permanent, mercenary bodies fulfilled this role. In England the traditional system of commissions of array remained in place. This allowed the monarch to call upon the large private bodies of troops controlled by the magnates. These forces were raised by means of the “livery and maintenance” system. This had been in place since the reign of Henry the second. Such armies had proved highly effective in the hundred years war and in, the more recent, “Wars of the Roses”. Henry VII had come to power as a result of this struggle. Few people expected his reign to be peaceful. Within two years Margaret of Burgundy, the sister of Edward IV, Richard III and George of Clarence took a hand. She undertook to raise a large body of these new style mercenaries, several thousand German landsknechts under the command of Martin Schwartz. These troops landed to support an English rising led by The Earl of Stafford and Francis Viscount Lovell, they were augmented by the Anglo-Irish forces of the Fitzgerald family. For the first time the new European forces would be used in England and Stoke Field would be the proving ground.

Martin Rapier

POLAND 1939 WITH ONE HOUR WW2

The latest version of the One Hour WW2 rules, covering grand tactical actions in the second world war, with battalion (or equivalent) sized elements on a small hex grid. This session will highlight the latest revisions to the rules and is both an opportunity for players to try the system who missed out at COW last year, and for experienced players to try it again. The scenario will feature asymmetrical forces in a historical engagement during the Bzura counteroffensive, which will emphasise particular features of the rules.

Pete Sizer

UNDERNEATH GROZNY'S STREETS

Taking the role of either Chechen guerrillas or Russian Spetsnaz, players will wander through the sewers of Grozny trying to flush each other out.

Ian Drury

JE NE REGRETTE RIEN

Algeria 1961: President De Gaulle's plan to end the war in Algeria, his 'peace of the brave' is popular with voters in mainland France. However, the European community in Algeria is in uproar and significant elements of the armed forces feel betrayed . . . This is an ADG for about ten players and will benefit from appropriate headgear, so if you have a green, red or blue beret; or a képi, or casquette Bigeard, do bring it along.

John Armatys

COLD WAR BLITZSPIEL

A chance to shove some toys round the table and try the latest version of my low level (a tank = a tank, an infantry base = a section or squad) simple "modern" rules, which started life in the Cold War Wargames Workshop at COW 2023.

Tim Gow

LITTLE WORLD WARS

A battalion-brigade level tabletop WW2 game featuring delights such as 54mm toy soldiers and Nerf guns. Cynics may suspect this is but a thinly veiled excuse to push around some big toys and have a bit of a laugh. Veterans of my other recent games will be in no doubt!

Chris Kemp

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO NQM?

NQM (Not Quite Mechanised) is now hex compatible. See the latest amendments in a two-hour session designed to demonstrate how airpower integrates with ground forces. Alternately, join in, roll some dice and enjoy a relaxing session.

Chris Ager

FOO FIGHTERS

A game of trying to get pictures of UFOs in the Cold War. Will you scupper your career in the US Airforce or reveal the truth?

John Bassett

WOLVES IN THE FORUM

Julius Caesar lies dead in the Senate House. Now the struggle is on to succeed him - or re-establish the old Republic. A game of power, politics and intrigue in ancient Rome.

Evan D'Alessandro

KICKING DOORS

A playtest of some miniatures rules for modern infantry combat in urban environments, mostly focused on high-tempo counterterrorism and raids. Breach and clear!

The Timetable

	Conference Room	Practice Room	Lodge Room 3
0930-1000	Arrival and coffee		
1000-1045	Halberds & Hooligans		
1045-1100	Tea/coffee break		
1100-1300	One Hour WW2	Wolves in the Forum	Underneath Grozny's Streets
1300-1400	Buffet Lunch		
1400-1600	Cold War Blitzspiel	Foo Fighters	Little World Wars
1600-1615	Tea/coffee break		
1615-1815	Not Quite Mechanised	Je Ne Regrette Rien	Kicking Doors
1815-1830	Close		
Talk session			
Game session			
Room not in use			
Break/admin session			